



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/044,398	01/09/2002	Roy J. Firestone	0026-011	8914

7590 01/14/2004

Larry E. Henneman, Jr
Hennenman & Saundes
714 W. Michigan Avenue
Three Rivers, MI 49093

EXAMINER

HWU, DAVIS D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3752

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/044,398

Applicant(s)

FIRESTONE, ROY J.

Examiner

Davis Hwu

Art Unit

3752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 22-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 22-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim R jections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-11, 22-25, 27, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Langeman.

The patent to Langeman discloses an apparatus for proportioning a component A and a component B, comprising:

- a flow measurement apparatus 32B for measuring the flow rate of component B based on the speed of the motor driving the pump and thus 32B is a flow sensor as recited in claim 9;
- a control unit 32A for calculating the quantity of component A to be added to the component B based on at least in part on the flow rate of B;
- a flow control device including motor 28B and pump 24B for metering the quantity of component B to component A;
- a second flow measurement apparatus for measuring the flow of B as a part of 32A;
- wherein the control unit receives input from the flow measurement apparatus and the control unit controls the flow control device as recited in claim 3.

Art Unit: 3752

The flow of component B varies during the operation of the apparatus as recited in claim 7. The various substances as recited in claims 4-6 are statements of intended use, since it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. Regarding claim 8, it would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art that the flow rate would vary according to the quantity of a plurality of spray wands in operation since the required flow rate would increase or decrease depending on the wands in operation. The device of Langeman could be used in a vehicle washing device.

3. Claims 12 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Langeman in view of Kollmai.

The patent to Langeman discloses the instant invention except for a solenoid valve. The patent to Kollmai teaches a car wash apparatus comprising a solenoid valve to discharge liquids. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device of Langeman by providing a solenoid valve as taught by Kollmai, since solenoid valves are known precise flow control.

4. Claims 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Langeman in view of Lane et al.

The patent to Langeman discloses the instant invention except for the pump being an air driven pump. The patent to Lane et al. teaches a washing device comprising an air driven pump 15 to atomize a solution. It would have been obvious to one having

Art Unit: 3752

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device of Langeman by replacing the pump of Langeman with an air driven pump as taught by Lane et al. to atomize chemical or water.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents to Gill, Terrell, and Thompson et al. are pertinent to Applicant's invention.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Davis Hwu whose telephone number is 703-305-1663. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Y. Mar can be reached on (703)308-2087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9302.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0861.



Davis Hwu